

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5969

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PINT, GR

SUBJECT: PAPADOPOULOS REPORTED TO HAVE REFUSED CHANCE
TO FLEE ABROAD

1. ACCORDING TO "TIMES" REPORT FROM ATHENS NOVEMBER 29 BY MARIO MODIANO, DEPOSED PRESIDENT PAPADOPOULOS REFUSED TO FLEE ABROAD WHEN OFFERED CHANCE BY HIS CAPTORS SOON AFTER COUP LAST SUNDAY. ARTICLE SAID "QUALIFIED SOURCES IN ATHENS" REPORTED PAPADOPOULOS HAD BEEN OFFERED AIRLINE TICKETS FOR HIMSELF AND HIS WIFE. SOURCES INSISTED PAPADOPOULOS STILL UNDER HOUSE ARREST AT HIS SUMMER VILLA AT LAGONISSI. RUMORS HE HAD BEEN KILLED OR COMMITTED SUICIDE WERE DENIED BY THE SOURCES, WHO SAID HIS BROTHER, CONSTANTINE PAPADOBOULOS, HAD BEEN ALLOWED TO SPEAK TO HIM ON THE TELEPHONE MORNING NOVEMBER 29. SOURCES ALSO DENIED REPORTS HE HAD BEEN CONFINED TO AIR FORCE OFFICERS SUMMER CAMP AT AYIOS ANDREAS.

2. ARTICLE CONTINUED WITH REPORT OF COMMENTS AGAINST NEW REGIME BY FORMER MINISTER JOHN ZIGDIS AND FORMER PRIME MINISTER STEFANOS STEFANOPOULOS, THE LATTER HAVING CHANGED HIS LINE AFTER ORIGINAL STATEMENT WELCOMING OVERTHROW OF "ONE MAN, ANARCHIST, AND CORRUPT
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REGIME."

3. ARTICLE NOTES SILENCE OF KANELLOPOULOS AND MAVROS. IT COMMENTS THAT IN ABSENCE OF DEFINITE SCHEDULE FOR RESTORATION OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT, POPULAR MOOD IS ONE OF DISENCHANTMENT, WITH A FEW LINGERING ELEMENTS OF HOPE. HOPE APPEARS CENTERED ON FACT REGIME HAD LITTLE TIME TO ENGINEER COUP AND BRING TOGETHER SUCH DISPARATE ELEMENTS.

4. ARTICLE GOES ON TO QUOTE ATHENS NEWSPAPER ON EVENTS WITHIN ORTHODOX CHURCH WHICH UNDOUBTEDLY KNOWN TO ADDRESSEES. IT NOTES THE PRIMATE, ARCHBISHOP IERONYMOS, FELT HUMILIATED BECAUSE NEW PRESIDENT AND GOVERNMENT IGNORED HIM AND INVITED BISHOP SERAFIM OF IOANNINA TO ADMINISTER OATH OF OFFICE.

5. THIS ARTICLE AND OTHERS IN LONDON ORESS NOTE THAT ONLY FEW PEOPLE OF THOSE ARRESTED IN ATHENS IN CONNECTION WITH DISORDERS EARLIER THIS MONTH HAVE BEEN RELEASED. MODIANO PUTS NUMBER OF THOSE STILL DETAINED AT ABOUT 200. THIS INCLUDES FORMER DEPUTY FOTILAS.

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